

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated July 11, 2008, the Examiner identified the application as containing claims directed to three distinct species. The Examiner has required the Applicants to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted.

In response to the Examiner's requirement, Applicants elect Species III, drawn to the third embodiment. Claims 1-6, 13, 15 and 18-20 are readable on the elected species. Having made the required election, a full examination on the merits of the elected invention is hereby requested.

Further, in the Office Action, the Examiner has pointed out that the substitute specification filed on December 14, 2007 is not compliant under 37 CFR 1.121, because the substitute specification inadvertently did not include the cross-reference to the parent application, which was added in the preliminary amendment filed on August 25, 2003. Applicants thank the Examiner for pointing out this inconsistency.

In order to cure this inconsistency, Applicants are submitting a modified substitute specification and abstract (clean version and marked-up version), in order to address this issue identified by the Examiner. No new matter has been added.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants kindly request that examination of the present application proceed on the merits. If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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